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Bawariz

OCA [REDACTED]
5 December 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing for Representative Bill Richardson (D-NM)
on Guatemala - 30 November 1994

1. On 30 November 1994, at 0845 hours, in room H-405, The Capitol, Representative Bill Richardson (D-NM) [REDACTED] were briefed in preparation for their upcoming trip to Guatemala. Agency participants were [REDACTED], Office of Africa and Latin American Analysis, Directorate of Intelligence; [REDACTED] Latin American Division, Directorate of Operations; and the undersigned.

2. The entire briefing centered around human rights abuses and the peace process, with Richardson immediately asking for the latest information on the Bama case and the status of Jennifer Harbury. [REDACTED] reviewed the highlights of the Bama case, ending with the media blitz of Harbury, who is now back in Guatemala fighting her case within the Guatemalan court system. [REDACTED] informed Richardson that Harbury's case could possibly be active in the courts while he is in country. [REDACTED] also pointed out the fact that there are approximately 40,000 cases of human rights abuses that have occurred in Guatemala over the past year or so, therefore, why make such a fuss over one case. Richardson did indicate, however, that he would be meeting with Harbury while he is there, along with various human rights groups (NFI), U.N. Human Rights Verification Commission (MINUGUA) and Vice Minister of Government Colonel Mario MERIDA Gonzalez.

3. As for the peace process, [REDACTED] noted that significant progress was made during the first six months of the year, but has stalled the latter half of the year over indigenous rights. If a settlement on these issues could come to a closure, there are still a number of very difficult issues to follow. The prognosis for peace may be some time in coming, most likely not until 1996.

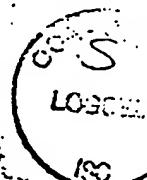
4. [REDACTED] also addressed the breakdown of the URNG factions, and provided some background on the civil war to put the Bama in perspective. He described the civil defense patrols and explained how the military and political leaders in Guatemala defended their deployment.

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5. The last portion of the briefing was given by [REDACTED] Richardson had notified OCA earlier of his interest [REDACTED]

House Liaison Division
Office of Congressional Affairs

DCI/OCA/HAD [REDACTED] (5 Dec 94)
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